



March 31, 2015

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, Co-Chair

RE: SB 388 HD1 Relating to Police Departments
Hearing: Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 2:05 p.m., Room 325

Position: SUPPORT

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus writes in support of SB 388 HD1 Relating to Police Departments which would require each county police department to post its policies relating to domestic violence, officer-involved domestic violence, and standards of conduct on its official website.

The Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls.

Recent events and questions related to those events made apparent the need for transparency of our police departments and for the public to know the policies of police departments relating to domestic violence, and especially those of officer-involved domestic violence. The official websites of the police departments are the logical place to post those policies.

The policies should be available to the public and easy to find. In order to determine if police officers have properly followed policies and procedures, the public must first know what they are. Knowing how reports would be handled helps victims know what to expect and whether procedures are being followed.

This measure is a good start to bringing transparency and public confidence in police departments. We respectfully request that the committee pass this measure and we thank the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony.



LATE

HAWAII STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

March 30, 2015

To: Rep Karl Rhodes, Chair
Rep. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

From: Marci Lopes, Executive Director
Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

RE: SB 388—STRONG SUPPORT

PLACE: Conference Room 325

DATE and TIME: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 2:05 p.m.

The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is a statewide partnership of 21 domestic violence program and domestic violence shelter providers on 6 of our Hawaiian Islands. Our mission is to engage communities and organizations to end domestic violence through education, advocacy, and action for social justice.

The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence is in strong support of SB 388, which would require each county police department to post on the official website policies relating to domestic violence, officer-involved domestic violence, and the standards of conduct. This will allow officers and the general public to be readily informed about the policies, and to determine if the policies are being followed as intended. This also opens the door for continued discussions and improvements if there are future changes that need to be made to the policies.

Officer involved domestic violence an area of concern for victims in Hawaii, and while HSCADV has been working with HPD to provide guidance and best practice resources for developing policies and procedures, they have yet to be approved and implemented. HSCADV believes that this is an opportunity to bring the necessary transparency and accountability that victims of domestic violence deserve.

Marci Lopes, Executive Director

HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



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LESLIE WILKINS

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March 30, 2015

LATE

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Joy San Buenaventura, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, SB 388, HD1, Relating to Police Departments

The Commission supports SB 388, HD1, which would require that all counties post their respective domestic violence policies online, including policies for officer involved domestic violence and standards of conduct.

The challenges within our own Honolulu Police Department (HPD) have been numerous. From the various complaints the Commission office has received, it is clear that internal policies relating to officer involved domestic violence, basic conduct after receiving calls and reports regarding domestic violence, and standardized codes of conduct are not uniform or streamlined. The public should have access to this information. Additionally, the multiple agencies that work with victims of domestic violence would benefit from having the policies online, should they need to refer to them. Finally, posting these policies online is a simple way that HPD can foster community trust in their institution, as it allows for transparency and accountability.

The Commission requests that you pass SB 388, HD1. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.